

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/021,867

Examiner

Jennifer A. Boyd

Applicant(s)

KOPACZ ET AL.

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/6/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 91-117.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/28/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Applicant's Amendments and Accompanying Remarks, filed September 6, 2006, have been entered and have been carefully considered. Claims 1- 90 are cancelled, claims 91 – 117 are added and claims 91 – 117 are pending. In light of the interview conducted on August 17, 2006, the Examiner has withdrawn all previously applied rejections because the prior art does not teach inwardly oriented projections where each projection is surrounded by a valley. All rejections have been overcome.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Barbara Clark on September 28, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

91. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising two layers of ~~tufted~~ material each layer having a plurality of projections, each projection surrounded by a valley, wherein the plurality of projections are configured to form an identifiable pattern and are oriented towards

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each other to produce ~~an internally tufted~~ a laminate in which opposing projections are in contact and at least some of the opposing projections are bondable to one another, wherein opposing valleys form a void volume between the two layers of ~~tufted~~ material and the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the two layers of ~~tufted~~ material.

92. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 91 wherein at least one of the two layers of ~~tufted~~ material has a bi-layer structure.

93. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 92 comprising two bi-layer structures, wherein each bi-layer structure comprises a layer of the ~~tufted~~ material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

95. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 94 wherein the ~~tufted~~ material is comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

97. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 91 wherein the two layers of ~~tufted~~ material are thermally bonded.

98. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 91 wherein the two layers of ~~tufted~~ material are located between two outer layers of nonwoven material.

99. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:

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~~an internally tufted~~ a laminate having at least two layers of ~~tufted~~ material located between at least two outer layers, the at least two layers of ~~tufted~~ material having opposing bondable individual projections oriented inwardly and configured to form an identifiable pattern, wherein a valley surrounds each of the individual projections and opposing valleys form a void volume between the at least two layers of ~~tufted~~ material, wherein the absorbent sheet does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers; and an added liquid to provide suitable wiping properties.

111. ~~(New)~~ (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:

~~an internally tufted~~ a laminate comprised of a plurality of individual projections located on at least two layers of material and configured to have an identifiable pattern, wherein each individual projection is bondable and surrounded by a valley and oriented inwardly towards an opposing projection, wherein opposing valleys form a void volume between the at least two layers and each projection measures at least about one (1) mm in length; and an added liquid to provide suitable wiping properties.

Please amend the title of the invention as follows:

Internally tufted laminates ~~and methods of producing the same~~

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The rejections have been overcome. Although Raidel et al. (US 6,171,682), Mende (US 5,180,620) and Curro et al. (US 6,808,791) are considered to be the most pertinent prior art, they fail to teach or suggest a laminate having at least two layers having projections oriented inwardly, where the projections are each surrounded by a valley. The claim limitations preclude the rejection of the claims over corrugated laminates because the projections are *surrounded* by a valley.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer A. Boyd whose telephone number is 571-272-1473. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday (8:30am - 6:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gb

Jennifer Boyd
September 29, 2006

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